

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL
LELAND SHEPHERD

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Colonel Leland “Tony” Shepherd on his selection as Arkansas Army National Guard’s 6th Land Component commander and his promotion to the rank of brigadier general on June 5, 2022.

On June 12, 2022, General Shepherd will assume command of Arkansas Army’s eight land power units with a force size of 6,700 personnel tasked with operational readiness, training, mobilization, and deployments supporting my great State and in defense of an even greater Nation. This historical selection makes him the first African-American man to hold such a prestigious position and only the second African-American man to be promoted as a general officer in the history of the Arkansas National Guard.

General Shepherd began his military career in the U.S. Army Reserve in Philadelphia, PA, on July 23, 1992. He then transitioned to the Arkansas Army National Guard as an enlisted soldier in October 1995 and was commissioned to second lieutenant in August 1998. General Shepherd has served in several positions over the past 27 years, including assignments as a signal officer in the 212th Signal Battalion in Little Rock and as part of the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Malvern, AR. General Shepherd also deployed twice to Iraq where he oversaw Camp Victory’s post signal capabilities. Prior to this selection for the 6th Land Component Command, he served as the State’s deputy chief of staff G-6 overseeing the planning, strategy, network architecture, and implementation of command, control, communications, and networks for Army operations.

General Shepherd received the Order of Mercury, Bronze for the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence, and selflessness for those who have made significant contributions to the U.S. Army Signal Corps. This award reflects his superior performance and devotion to duty throughout his entire professional career.

I would like to recognize General Shepherd’s wife Zandral and children Anthony, Ryan Wells, Logan, and Lukas for their sacrifice and service. It is their steadfast support of their husband and dad that enabled his continued service, ultimately leading to this historic promotion. As the son of George and Gwendoline Shepherd of Guyana, South America, General Shepherd is the epitome of the American dream which is founded on the belief that we all can attain our own version of success and achieve prosperity through hard work.

General Shepherd, congratulations on this new chapter in your career. I join my colleagues in the Senate and

all Arkansans as we express our appreciation for you and your family’s continued service to our country.●

RECOGNIZING THE HEALTH
WAGON

• Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, as we continue our battle with COVID-19, we must acknowledge the healthcare healers that are serving in our rural communities. In particular, I would like to highlight the work of the Health Wagon in Virginia. The Health Wagon is the oldest mobile clinic in the Nation. Their mission is to provide compassionate, quality healthcare to medically underserved people in Appalachia. The Health Wagon works to mitigate barriers to healthcare access, taking healthcare into the community, into places like grocery stores, food banks, workplaces, and providing communities in southwest Virginia with access to primary, specialty, dental and vision care.

Health Wagon originated 40 years ago with Sister Bernadette Kenny of the Catholic order Medical Missionaries of Mary. Sister Bernie traveled on rural mountain roads in her Volkswagen Beetle to deliver healthcare to individuals in southwest Virginia. Now, the organization employs more than 50 staff members across four clinics and four mobile units. Their average patient is 41 years old, with 100 percent of patients being uninsured or underinsured. Over the last year, the Health Wagon has served 10,857 individual patients and documented 35,250 patient encounters.

The Health Wagon has also been vital in the fight against COVID-19. Since March 2020, the Health Wagon has provided more than 18,000 COVID-19 tests, provided 19,567 COVID-19 vaccinations, and administered over 5,500 monoclonal antibody treatments. They do not bill for services, and their programs are sustained by grants and donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations. The Health Wagon is led by president and CEO, Dr. Teresa Tyson. Dr. Tyson has served with the Health Wagon for 30 years, and under her leadership, the organization has received national recognition for its innovative projects in telehealth space. The Health Wagon was the first to deliver a virtual wound care clinic and conducted the first FAA-approved drone delivery of medications in the United States. Dr. Tyson led the largest health outreach of its kind in the Nation, as well as providing the first telecytology in the world in partnership with University of Virginia. Dr. Tyson leads a group of caring and committed providers.

Rural communities are the backbone of our country, and the Health Wagon has served the Appalachia community admirably. I thank them for their service.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY M. HUNT

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the long-time program director for community and economic development Mary M. Hunt upon her retirement after more than 20 remarkable years of service to the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

I have often said there is no greater accomplishment than to find yourself in a position to give back to the community you love. As a Clarksburg native, Mary Hunt has served the people of her community and beyond with professionalism, compassion, and respect throughout her entire career.

Mary has never taken any position she has held lightly—and has always seen herself primarily as a servant of the people of West Virginia. She worked tirelessly for the Charleston mayor’s office of economic and community development throughout the late ‘80s and early ‘90s. Mary found herself in the capital city at a pivotal time, when major development projects were coming to fruition. It is hard to imagine a Charleston today without such iconic spaces as Haddad Riverfront Park and Capitol Market, but Mary was there when the ideas were conceived and helped bring them to reality.

Mary made her mark in State government, too. In the early 1990s, during Gaston Caperton’s administration, she worked as executive assistant to the cabinet secretary for the West Virginia Department of Commerce for 2 years and then as the chief of administration for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection for 5 years, through 1997. Truly, her legacy of civic service is one we should all instill in ourselves.

Throughout her time as program director at the Benedum Foundation, Mary served as an irreplaceable leader by advancing the foundation’s existing programs and starting new initiatives to ensure the organization’s continued viability and positive social impact. Time and time again, Mary has made her devotion to helping others abundantly clear—not only through her philanthropy projects, but by building new partnerships and inviting others into the fold—ultimately bolstering her capacity for good.

Over the last two decades, Mary has helped numerous communities, both internally and externally, to help them make their projects possible. During her tenure, she has helped distribute grants in almost all 55 of West Virginia’s counties, supporting nearly 650 grant projects and touching roughly 200 organizations.

With an unrivaled, strong spirit of optimism and innovation, her commitment to strengthening our communities is something to admire. Her work has undoubtedly advanced the foundation, but more importantly, our entire State. I know she has inspired many young leaders throughout her illustrious career, and I am confident that they will carry the torch to ensure a brighter tomorrow.